

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 10739 051630Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 /072 W

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R 051446Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6200

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1723

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: SAFETY OF IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 209447

1. EMBASSY IS GETTING MANY REPORTS AND RUMORS OF IMPENDING ACTIONS AGAINST IMPERIAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM PREVIOUS REGIME. THESE ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY AND RANGE FROM ALLEGED PLANS FOR RELEASE, THROUGH PRISON SENTENCES, TO EXECUTIONS OF SOME. WE HAVE HAD MANY SUCH ALARMS BEFORE THAT HAVE PROVED FALSE. IN PRESENT TENSE ATMOSPHERE ON EVE OF SEPT 13 ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES, AND IN WAKE OF DEATH OF EMPEROR, SUCH REPORTS AND RUMORS ARE NATURAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT INTENSITY OF RUMORS, AND ALSO OF DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION REFTTEL, AMB MADE ORAL DEMARCHE ON SUBJECT.

2. AMB CALLED TODAY ON LIJ MIKAEL IMRU (PREVIOUS PRIMIN AND FONMIN, NOW POLITICAL ADVISER TO PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE) AND MADE FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT: BEGIN QUOTE THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON HAS RECEIVED EXPRESSION OF CONCERN, AND SO HAS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA, THAT THERE MAY BE EXECUTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE FORMER IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WERE FIGURES IN THE FORMER
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 10739 051630Z

GOVERNMENT. WE REALIZE THAT SIMILAR REPORTS AND RUMORS THAT

HAVE CROPPED UP IN THE PAST HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE UNTRUE.
HOWEVER, MY GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED ME TO REITERATE THE VIEW THAT
WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO YOUR GOVERNMENT BEFORE, THAT SUCH EXECUTIONS
WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR VIEWS OF HUMANITARIAN
PRINCIPLES, AND WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH THE EPMG. THE INTENT OF BOTH THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE CONGRESS IS CLEAR IN SUCH HUMANITARIAN
MATTERS, AND U.S. LAWS, AS WELL AS IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN
AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ANY SUCH
EXECUTIONS.
END QUOTE

3. LIJ MIKAEL SAID HE WOULD BRING STATEMENT TO ATTENTION OF
CHAIRMAN TEFERI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF PMAC. HE ADDED THAT HE
KNEW OF MANY RUMORS CIRCULATING NOW, BUT IT WAS HIS HOPE, AND
THAT OF MANY OTHERS, THAT THERE WOULD BE RELEASES OF PRISONERS
RATHER THAN THE RUMORED EXECUTIONS.

4. EMBASSY HOPES ADDRESSEES WILL NOT RPT NOT TELL CONCERNED
ETHIOPIANS THAT AMB HAS MADE DEMARCHE ABOVE.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PHYSICAL SECURITY, POLITICAL PRISONERS, THREATS, DEATHS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS10739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750308-0550
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750977/aaaacqen.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 209447
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAFETY OF IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS
TAGS: PINT, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006